



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## EXTRA DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TO BOOST NSW TOURISM

An additional four weeks of daylight savings will have a positive economic impact on Sydney and regional New South Wales tourism, Minister for Tourism Matt Brown said today.

Mr Brown made the comments following Premier Morris Iemma's announcement that he would introduce legislation this week to give effect to the change, with the new schedule planned to start in April 2008.

In what is good news for tourism, visitors will be encouraged to stay out later, spend more money and enjoy the wonderful sights NSW has to offer. An extra month of evening sunlight will also increase opportunities for tourism related businesses such as retail, hospitality and transport as well as festivals and events.

Mr Brown said an agreement had been struck with Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT to harmonise daylight savings arrangements with the aim to minimize confusion of people, and tourists, traveling between these states.

The new daylight saving arrangement is widely supported by the tourism industry across the State.

*"I really support this initiative, who needs sunshine at 4 am? Where we are on the beach it makes sense to give people more time to enjoy outside, especially on holidays."* Gerd Beurich General Manager, Mantra on Salt Beach, Kingscliff, Northern Rivers.

*"Tourism Wollongong sees this as a very positive move, allowing people more time to enjoy tourist facilities in regional areas. They will have more time to enjoy their holidays, spend more money and drive our economy."* Greg Binskin, General Manager, Tourism Wollongong

*"Extended Daylight Savings hours will mean visitors to Sydney and local residents will have more opportunity to experience climbing our iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge in daylight hours... We also believe that extended daylight saving hours will not only benefit other NSW attractions but will benefit the NSW Tourism industry as a whole."* Todd Coates, Managing Director BridgeClimb.

*"It's fantastic. It gives people more time to enjoy an outside holiday. The weather here is fantastic at that time of year. If only Queensland would change its ways."* John Parche, GM, Byron at Byron

Under the new arrangements, the south-eastern States and the ACT would all start DST on the first Sunday in October and end it on the first Sunday in April.

The decision to harmonise daylight savings was undertaken after extensive consultation between the affected jurisdictions to take into account the impacts that daylight saving has on rural and urban communities